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Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from Governments	2
	Bolivia	2
	Chile	2
	China	3
	Japan	4
	Jordan	7
	Lebanon	8
	Panama	9

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I. Introduction

1. On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/59, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", in paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 23 February 2006, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[27 April 2006]

Resolution 60/59, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 December 2005, promotes multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope.

For Bolivia, responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world.

Bolivia, as a member of the international community, considers multilateralism to be a core principle for resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns.

In this regard, Bolivia firmly supports the work of the international agencies in the United Nations system that aim to promote disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with a view to ensuring international peace and security.

Through multilateralism, the strong and effective participation of all the States of the international community will allow international security to be maintained and strengthened in the face of current challenges such as transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2006]

Chile has played an active role in promoting multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. It has made renewed efforts to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament and work for the prompt adoption of an effective programme of work in such areas as negative security assurances, nuclear disarmament and the arms race in outer space. It also considers essential a prompt

start to the negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

China

[Original: Chinese]
[24 May 2006]

Currently, the international process of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation is at a crucial crossroad; rare opportunities for development exist, along with unprecedented challenges to be faced. On the one hand, countries are growing increasingly interdependent in the area of security; the desire for peace, development and cooperation has become an irresistible trend of the times. The overwhelming majority of arms control and non-proliferation agreements are being implemented in a positive manner; their universality, authority and effectiveness continue to become stronger, and they are playing an important role in the maintenance of international peace and security. On the other hand, there is still a long way to go in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation at the international level. Instability and unpredictable factors are clearly increasing in the domain of international security; non-traditional security threats are growing, the process of nuclear disarmament is arduous, multilateral arms-control and disarmament mechanisms are encountering obstacles, international counter-proliferation efforts are facing challenges, and the process of settling regional nuclear issues is suffering setbacks.

With today's deepening trend of globalization, no country can resolve on its own the security problems that it faces. If it is to seize the historic opportunity and effectively meet the new challenges in this new situation, the international community must persistently promote multilateralism and advocate multilateral cooperation, giving impetus to the fair, rational, comprehensive and sound development of the international arms-control, disarmament and non-proliferation enterprise. For this purpose, the international community should abide by the following principles:

First, it should adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized norms governing international relations, and foster a new security concept based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination.

Second, the role of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations should be brought into full play, to maintain, further strengthen and improve the existing legal system regarding arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Third, the right of all countries to equal participation in international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation affairs should be guaranteed, and the international process of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation carried forward on the basis of no derogation of any country's security; this is the fundamental prerequisite and guarantee of the fair, equal, rational and universal implementation of the relevant international treaties and arrangements.

Fourth, non-proliferation problems should be handled through political and diplomatic methods within the framework of international law, and the legitimate

rights and interests of all countries as regards the peaceful use of science and technology should be guaranteed.

China unswervingly supports world multi-polarization and multilateralism, and has consistently taken a positive, responsible and constructive approach when participating in multilateral arms-control, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. China is ready and willing to join the nations of the world in continuing to hold high the banner of multilateralism, work towards the realization of a new security concept, further promote the multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation process, and make due contributions to the preservation of world peace and common development.

Japan

[Original: English]
[28 April 2006]

A. Japan's basic position

Japan adheres to all the international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and regimes on weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as those on conventional arms, and has been making active efforts to reinforce them. Japan has also made an active contribution to promoting international cooperation in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, as well as the spread of conventional arms. In addition, Japan has held consultations with countries for the close exchange of views, and, where necessary, made specific demarches on these occasions:

- Japan acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1976 as a non-nuclear-weapon State. Subsequently, Japan accepted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, as required under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to provide transparency of its nuclear activities. Japan also concluded an additional protocol to its IAEA Safeguards Agreement in 1999;
- Japan ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1998, and has vigorously worked to establish the monitoring stations, which form part of the international monitoring system in Japan;
- Japan acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 1988;
- Japan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1982;
- Japan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1995;
- Japan makes every effort to fully implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2001;

- Japan ratified the amended Protocol II on mines, booby traps and other devices to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects on 10 June 1997;

- Japan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction on 30 September 1998;

- Japan has promoted universal adoption and full implementation, and, where necessary, strengthening of the above-mentioned treaties;

- Japan is a member of all the international export controls regimes; that is, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Wassenaar Arrangement. Japan has been actively participating in discussions in the regimes and promoting outreach activities towards non-participants in each regime;

- Japan is also providing a secretariat function as the point of contact to the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Japan presided over the General Working Group of the Wassenaar Arrangement in 2004;

- Japan subscribes to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (The Hague Code of Conduct), which was launched in November 2002;

- Japan has fulfilled its commitments to multilateral cooperation, in particular within frameworks of IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological Weapons Convention, as an important way of pursuing and achieving common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes;

- Japan has promoted dialogues and cooperation on non-proliferation in order to address threats posed by proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In particular, in order to strengthen comprehensive non-proliferation mechanisms through the enhancement of such measures in Asian countries, Japan maintains close dialogue with Asian countries, including Japan's own initiative of hosting the Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation which promote the identification of possible means of cooperation in overcoming obstacles to national implementation of relevant treaties and norms;

- Japan has been actively participating in and contributing to the Proliferation Security Initiative, which is an effort to consider and practice possible measures among the participating countries, in accordance with national legal authorities and relevant international law and frameworks, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missiles and related materials that pose threats to the peace and stability of the international community. Japan played an important role in drafting the "Statement of Interdiction Principles", a basic document of the Proliferation Security Initiative. Furthermore, Japan has been calling for wider support for the Initiative, especially from Asian countries. In this regard, the maritime interdiction exercise hosted by Japan in October 2004 promoted understanding of and support for the Initiative.

B. Japan's efforts

In order for the multilateral regimes in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation to function effectively, the following five factors need to work appropriately and adequately:

(a) Rule-making;

(b) Implementation of the rules by each party;

(c) Verification of compliance with the rules;

(d) Remedy against a non-compliance with the rules;

(e) Expansion of participants of the rules (universalization).

Japan plays a significant role in each aspect outlined above.

1. Japan has made active contribution, for example, to the launching of The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, as well as to the formulation of the IAEA Model Additional Protocol. Regarding confidence-building measures of The Hague Code of Conduct, Japan has faithfully issued pre-launch notifications of all space launch vehicles, including sounding rockets, and in 2005 it organized an international observation event at its space centre for States parties to The Hague Code of Conduct. In addition, as an activity at the preparatory stage on the establishment of rules, Japan submits nuclear disarmament resolutions to the General Assembly every year, indicating the direction that the nuclear disarmament negotiations should take. Additionally, in the area of conventional weapons, a resolution concerning the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is submitted to the General Assembly every year to set the direction for the future rule-making activities. Also, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was established by the General Assembly in its resolution entitled "Transparency in armaments", which was submitted by Japan and the member States of the European Community in 1991.

2. Regarding the implementation of rules, obligations under disarmament and non-proliferation treaties have become so advanced and complicated that some developing countries have difficulties implementing them. Japan provides various types of assistance to deal with these problems and to help developing countries implement the rules. For example, with regard to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Japan has implemented, among others, human resources development programmes in developing countries by offering global seismic observation training and has provided seismic observation instruments. Japan is also willing to provide assistance, as appropriate, in response to specific requests, to States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructures, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling provisions of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

3. Japan has contributed to the reinforcement of the IAEA safeguards system, which is at the core of the verification mechanism for nuclear non-proliferation. Japan has made great contributions to the process of establishing the Additional Protocol. Japan has also supported a series of regional seminars held in many parts of the world for the universalization of the Additional Protocol and hosted the International Conference on Wider Adherence to Strengthened IAEA Safeguards in Tokyo in December 2002 to reinforce the IAEA safeguards system. Japan has also

conducted démarches on the Additional Protocol to countries that have not yet concluded it, together with other members of the G-8.

4. As far as remedial action against a non-compliance of the rules is concerned, Japan has been actively engaged in efforts for peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the occasion of the Six-Party Talks.

5. With regard to the universalization of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Japanese high-ranking officials have been urging as many countries as possible to participate in the regimes. In the case of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, in particular, Japan has spearheaded the international efforts to bring it into force. As mentioned in paragraph 3 above, Japan is actively involved in an effort for the universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol. The Japanese initiatives were highly evaluated in the resolutions on the safeguards system adopted yearly since 2003 at the IAEA General Conferences.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[3 May 2006]

1. Jordan continually supports all international and regional efforts aimed at the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and arms limitation, in addition to which it encourages the adoption of measures for the disarmament and elimination of proscribed weapons. It also encourages focus on economic development and the strengthening of peace in the context of the United Nations. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for political will and the explicit commitment of all concerned parties to the achievement of global peace and stability in order to guarantee lasting and comprehensive peace.

2. The instability from the conflicts in the Middle East region calls for intensive cooperation among all States in the region and the adoption of regional and international measures that are both transparent and comprehensive. Over the past decades, Jordan has adopted clear policies that embody the Jordanese position in matters of disarmament, thereby affirming its support for all national, regional and global initiatives in that area. Jordan believes that the issue of disarmament cannot be tackled in isolation or by any one State alone insofar as the ensuing dangers will increase unless countered by serious and effective regional and international efforts aimed at disarmament and the promotion of multilateralism.

3. In the context of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, Jordan has ratified all the international conventions and treaties relating to weapons of mass destruction, in particular the following:

(a) The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);

(b) The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);

(c) The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC);

(d) The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC);

(e) Jordan has supported all initiatives aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

4. In that context, Jordan is striving hard to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction by actively participating in the technical committee approved by the Arab ministers for foreign affairs at their one hundred and first session in order to prepare a draft on making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Together with its ratification of the conventions and treaties on weapons of mass destruction, Jordan's active and positive role in the organizations established in connection with such weapons provides clear evidence of its concern and of its commitment to international instruments designed to strengthen security, peace and stability throughout the entire world.

5. In short, the Jordanese viewpoint with regard to the NPT is as follows:

(a) To encourage the elimination of nuclear dangers from the Middle East region, as well as commitment to the NPT and to making the region free from all weapons of mass destruction;

(b) To propose practical measures designed to alleviate tension, build confidence and control all forms of the arms race in the region under the auspices of the United Nations;

(c) To ensure the accession by all States in the region to the NPT and the placement of all nuclear facilities in the region under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

(d) To strengthen information cooperation and confidence-building measures between the Middle East region and the world's arms-exporting countries;

(e) To avoid the performance of activities involving the violation of treaties or conventions or the sovereignty of States.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[2 May 2006]

In reply to your note verbale No. 511/8 dated 7 March 2006 relating to the above subject, the Ministry of National Defence states that Lebanon supports the adoption of effective measures to counter the dangers that threaten international security and peace as a result of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Bearing in mind the existence of disarmament and arms regulation agreements resulting from multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power, with the goal of reaching complete disarmament under strict international control, it believes that the promotion of multilateralism is a core principle in negotiations in this area with a view to establishing universal norms and enlarging their scope. It renews and fulfils its commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving common objective in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation at a time when Israel's maintenance of an enormous arsenal of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a direct threat not only to Lebanon but to all States in the region, even endangering international peace and security.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[22 May 2006]

The Republic of Panama has signed, ratified and/or acceded to a number of multilateral agreements, conventions and instruments as part of its foreign policy and has promoted multilateralism as a means to regulate and control disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons.

Although Panama does not produce, stockpile or transfer nuclear, bacteriological or chemical weapons, the Government has taken the necessary steps at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to combat the proliferation and possible acquisition of such weapons by terrorist groups.